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Security Information

7 October 1953

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

VIA : Chief, Political and Psychological Warfare Staff

SUBJECT : Recommended Position on Terms of Reference for
Implementing PSB D-23.

1. On 8 October the OCS will be asked to approve a recommended "Terms of Reference for a Working Group to Coordinate Implementation of PSB D-23" (U.S. Psychological Strategy Based on Thailand), which is attached.

2. The terms of reference were drafted by an inter-Agency working group called by OCS following NSC approval of PSB D-23 (NSC Action 900 of 9 September 1953).

3. It is recommended that this Agency approve the proposed Terms of Reference with the exception of the last clause of paragraph 5 proposed by State and not concurred in by other agency representatives. The clause reads: "this working group is not intended to replace normal inter-agency procedures for coordination;". For your information, reference clause was included at the insistence of Mr. Philip Bonsal, Chief of PSA, State. In our opinion, his position is based on fear that CIA will undertake actions not cleared with him. We consider the clause both unnecessary and misleading. This Agency will not undertake any operation which is not authorized by the proper authorities. However, it is possible that some actions may be authorized at a level considerably higher than PSA and without the knowledge of PSA.

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Chief
Far East Division

Attachment:

"Terms of Reference for a Working
Group to Coordinate Implementation
of PSB D-23".

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Distribution:

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